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January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to inform you of my support of the proposed settlement in the antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft. This litigation has extended much further, and cost more money, than the public wants. It should be completed without further delay.

Microsoft has made a significant attempt with this agreement to encourage weaker competitors to gain market share. They will make it easier to configure Windows with the software of competitors and will offer top computer makers equivalent terms and conditions to encourage fair play. Software developers will benefit from measures that are sensitive in scope, gaining the ability to license Microsoft's intellectual property and access their Windows source code.

Now that we have the opportunity to move on, let us enact this fair, court mediator-assisted plan and get back to business. Any further action would just do harm to our fragile economy and truly over-step the public's feelings on the issue. I hope we have your approval.

Sincerely,



Dan Lester